

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Weather: Weather conditions over the past week were mostly hot and dry, although Baker County reported some heavy showers over the weekend. The lack of precipitation is delaying fall field preparation in many areas. Areas along the coast received high temperatures in the seventies and scant precipitation, mostly from fog. Elsewhere in Oregon, high temperatures ranged in the upper eighties and nineties and Medford recorded a high of 100 degrees. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, the Booth and Bear Butte fires near Sisters were 45 percent contained, with consumed acres now up to almost 51,000. Some smaller, lightning-induced fires were also reported in Wallowa County.

Field Crops: The small grain harvest was winding down statewide. In Baker County, the third cutting of alfalfa was underway and mint harvest was winding down. In Union County, harvested mint fields were being irrigated so that they can recover enough to survive the winter. Grass seed stubble continued to be burned in preparation for fall planting. Second cutting of hay was underway in Wallowa County. Mustard seed was harvested, third cutting of alfalfa continued, and summer fallow ground was being prepared for fall planting in Wasco County. In Marion County, the grass seed harvest was nearing completion and the hop harvest was underway. Field preparation continued for fall planted tall fescue and perennial ryegrass. In Washington County, oat hay was harvested and wheat straw was shredded and the fields disked. In Marion and Washington counties, Red clover seed fields were being swathed for harvest.

Vegetables: Although about three weeks later than normal, the vegetable harvest continued with lots of fresh vegetables at roadside stands and farmers markets. There were plenty of tomatoes, potatoes, onions, garlic, lettuce and broccoli. Sweet corn and broccoli were being harvested for the processors. The green bean harvest was nearly over.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: The main nursery activity continued to be irrigation at a rapid pace. Nurseries were looking forward to the fall marketing season. They were balling large trees, rotating potted shrubs, and setting seedlings. Greenhouses were working with fall and winter plants. Retailers starting to have fall mums and pansies. Easter lily growers were managing bulb stocks for propagation. Strawberry plants in the Klamath area are being harvested for shipment to California and Mexico.

Fruit: The pear harvest continued in the Hood River Valley, Wasco County, and Jackson County. Early apples were picked in Wasco and Lane counties. The wine grape harvest is expected to be early this year in the Willamette Valley and in southern Oregon. Harvest could begin as early as mid September. The evergreen blackberry harvest was past its peak in Clackamas County. The blueberry harvest is nearly complete in Lane County. Cranberries were showing more color on the southern coast, but still need more time to mature.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Dry conditions continued last week and pasture land across the State is very dry. Several fires were reported in eastern Oregon, most notably the Booth and Bear Butte fires. The threat of fire remains high. Cattle movement began off of range land in Lake and Union counties. Pasture land in Clackamas County is as dry as ever, but cattle were reported to be in good condition with ample supplies of supplemental feed.

Crop Progress Week Ending 8/31/03

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
All Barley harvested (%)	93	89	86	78
Spring wheat harvested (%)	95	92	97	92
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.8	6.9	—	—

Soil Moisture Week Ending 8/31/03

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	41	43	16	—
Subsoil (%)	42	47	11	—

Crop Condition Week Ending 8/31/03

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Range & Pasture (%)	15	29	45	11	—

WESTERN OREGON

CLACKAMAS: Most growers are holding off on fall field preparations until they get some rain. Evergreen blackberry harvest is now past peak. Other caneberry fields are still being renovated. Green bean harvest is nearing the end. Sweet corn picking is advancing rapidly with the warm temperatures. Fresh vegetable supplies still available for the local farmers markets and roadside stands. Main nursery activity is centered around irrigation and preparation for the fall marketing season. Livestock are mostly in good condition with ample supplies of supplemental feed. Dryland pastures are taking on the appearance of desert conditions. General field conditions are about as dry as it ever gets in western Oregon. Rain is needed badly.

COOS\CURRY: Dry weather continued with some coastal fog drip at times. Temperatures were about average for the season. Cranberries were showing more color but need more time to mature; growers were sampling leaf tissue to monitor results of fertilizer programs. In Curry County, Easter lily growers managing bulb stocks for propagation. Field crop producers were balancing irrigation schedules to optimize crop production, while conserving water supplies as much as possible.

JACKSON: Hot, dry conditions continue. Little or no plant growth without irrigation. Sweet corn, tomato and melon harvest in full swing. Alfalfa third cutting nearly complete. Bartlett pear harvest continues. Crop looks great. Comice harvest will begin early next week. Pears continue to be irrigated to get better sizes. More varieties are becoming ready for harvest. No major problems being reported other than shortage of pickers, which occurs every year at this time until California finishes picking. Most grain harvest is now completed. Second cuttings of grass hay and third cuttings of alfalfa hay being done. Grapes are getting close to ready, but not quite yet. The crop looks good. Vegetable harvest is still going well, with lots of good, fresh vegetables at roadside stands. Nurseries were busy with watering, feeding and other stock upkeep. Greenhouses are getting the late summer and fall plants out. Lots of fall mums and pansies were displayed at outlets. Ranchers are busy with irrigation and animal care. Hot, dry weather has been taking its toll on pasture. They need lots of water to keep the green feed growing. Even with good irrigation, pastures are looking stressed. Some ranchers are doing some supplemental feeding.

JOSEPHINE: Weather very warm here. Lots of smoke from the Sisters fires in our area. There were no local fires of any mention. Everything is ripening now and truck gardens are doing a good business. Grapes are ripening and picking time is probably in about two or three weeks. Anticipated early. Time to get ready for fall.

LANE: Picking peaches, apples and pears. The peach crop is mediocre; pears and apples look mediocre to good. Warm days and cool nights ripening some apples way ahead of normal. Nuts dropping; crop looks medium to above normal. Blueberry crop nearing end; short due to hot weather. Some late berries. Lower yield than expected. Some fall raspberries and strawberries, which still are yielding well. Vegetables in full swing, about three weeks later than normal. Lots of tomatoes, potatoes, onions, garlic, lettuce and broccoli.

MARION: Grain and grass seed harvest nearing completion. Hop harvest underway with lower than normal yields reported. Red clover seed fields beginning to be swathed for seed harvest. No yield reports yet, but expect yields to be off on some non-irrigated fields. Field preparation continues for many fall planted tall fescue and perennial ryegrass seed fields and possibly a little winter wheat. Still a few specialty seed crops, radish and flowers to be harvested.

WASHINGTON: Sweet corn being harvested for cannery processing; broccoli going to processors. Oat hay cut and baled; wheat straw shredded and fields disked. Balling large trees; rotating potted shrubs to new locations. Setting out new seedlings for nursery crop. Third cutting alfalfa baled and irrigation following for possible fourth cutting. Red clover in swath for harvest; some beets for seed combined. Prunes ripening and some edible. Farmers markets abundant with very good produce. Pastures dried up. Cattle looking good. No measurable moisture and high of 92 degrees with low of 57 degrees.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Grain harvest winding down with good yield reports. Third cutting alfalfa underway. Mint harvest about finished. Heavy showers over weekend took some pressure off irrigation and may provide a little rangeland green-up.

LAKE: Temperatures cooled off this week with highs in the low eighties. Producers are starting to gather their cattle off of the range.

MALHEUR: Harvest operations continue. Some areas out of water. Fall tilling underway behind harvested fields. Weather mostly normal, still dry.

UNION: Grain harvest is nearing an end. Harvest of potatoes and sugar beets has not begun yet. Weather in eastern Oregon continues hot and dry with no relief in sight for the next week to ten days. Forest and range grazing lands continue to dry out and some cattle have already been returned to valley fields for fall grazing. Irrigation continues on unharvested fields, but also on harvested crops such as mint so it can recover enough to make it through the winter. Grass seed stubble fields continue to be burned in preparation for replanting.

WALLOWA: Weather conditions are similar to last week - warm days, cool nights, no moisture. Harvesting is continuing as well as second cutting hay. Some moisture would be nice for fall planting. Range conditions are very dry, but lightning caused fires in the Imnaha area are being mopped up this week.

WASCO: Mustard seed harvest was completed by end of week. Other farm activities included field cultivation and fertilization on summer fallow ground in preparation for planting fall grain crops. Third cutting of alfalfa hay continued through the week with favorable weather conditions. Pear and early apple crops were being picked. Grass mowing between young cherry trees was noted. Cattle continue to hold their own on the dry pastures. All farmers would like to see rain.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING AUGUST 31, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	48	72	62	2	82	12	0.04	-0.38	1	59.96	-6.44	90	181
Crescent City	52	66	58	-2	55	-8	0.00	-0.28	0	58.67	-6.54	90	128
Florence	41	75	59	-3	63	-14	0.05	-0.34	1	75.74	-0.71	99	151
North Bend	48	70	59	-2	65	-5	0.02	-0.26	1	64.35	1.05	102	145
Tillamook	43	70	57	-2	52	-11	0.02	-0.53	1	83.62	-5.00	94	169
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	48	93	71	6	145	39	0.00	-0.26	0	33.39	-9.31	78	120
Eugene	46	91	66	0	116	0	0.00	-0.32	0	40.18	-9.19	81	145
Hillsboro	47	94	68	4	129	27	0.00	-0.28	0	36.61	-0.96	97	147
McMinnville	46	92	68	4	129	22	0.00	-0.23	0	40.22	2.96	93	152
Portland	55	93	71	4	148	25	0.00	-0.32	0	33.76	-2.54	93	147
Salem	50	91	69	4	133	23	0.00	-0.23	0	39.46	0.30	101	148
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	50	97	73	5	166	29	0.00	-0.14	0	33.40	2.39	108	108
Medford	57	100	75	5	178	34	0.00	-0.14	0	23.25	4.39	123	106
Roseburg	52	94	72	5	154	30	0.00	-0.21	0	31.79	-0.94	97	124
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	45	89	66	4	114	22	0.00	-0.21	0	14.51	0.46	103	106
Heppner	48	92	69	3	134	16	0.00	-0.21	0	12.10	-1.81	87	106
Hermiston	45	94	71	2	146	11	0.00	-0.14	0	7.83	-1.13	87	78
John Day	44	97	70	6	144	38	0.00	-0.22	0	11.72	-1.61	88	105
Moro	45	90	68	3	125	20	0.00	-0.14	0	10.41	-0.71	94	81
Pendleton	51	95	72	4	158	22	0.00	-0.14	0	11.39	-0.63	95	97
The Dalles	51	96	74	10	170	67	0.00	-0.14	0	13.89	1.38	111	85
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	44	93	65	5	107	31	0.00	-0.14	0	7.81	-3.89	67	67
Burns	42	94	67	7	119	40	0.00	-0.14	0	8.61	-1.35	86	90
Klamath Falls	44	89	67	3	118	17	0.00	-0.14	0	11.98	-1.52	89	92
Lakeview	39	88	65	4	110	20	0.00	-0.14	0	4.59	-11.03	29	48
Redmond	38	96	65	3	106	16	0.00	-0.13	0	7.54	-1.03	88	75
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	39	93	65	3	111	17	0.00	-0.21	0	10.38	-0.49	95	94
Joseph	44	89	66	8	114	51	0.00	-0.28	0	20.71	-4.14	83	144
La Grande	41	97	67	2	125	12	0.00	-0.23	0	12.58	-4.86	72	102
Union	41	95	68	5	124	27	0.00	-0.28	0	16.14	2.36	117	121
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	49	96	73	3	162	20	0.00	-0.14	0	8.34	-1.34	86	78
Rome	47	98	72	6	154	38	0.00	-0.14	0	7.18	-1.10	87	76

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Sunday, September 1, 2002.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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